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10/032,454	01/02/2002	Ulrich Watermann	12383-04/ejg	6577

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EXAMINER

PIASCIK, SUSAN L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3643

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/032,454

Applicant(s)

WATERMANN, ULRICH

Examiner

Susan L Piascik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

PETER M. POON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed July 2, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not found persuasive.

The applicant argues that the Takeda reference fails to teach a third line extending across the silhouette. The applicant also contends that the third line of Takeda is not attached to the first and second lines at specific ends or the swivels. However, the examiner finds the Takeda reference to teach all of the elements of the applicant's invention and wishes to argue that mere rearrangement of the parts would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

The third line (10B) of Takeda does in fact extend across the silhouette as shown in Figure 5. Takeda's third line falls in a different plane than the applicant's third line, yet still can be considered as extending across the vinyl sheet. Further, the third line does connect to the first and second lines in order to maintain continuity between all three lines if one of the first or second lines becomes unattached from the holes. Once again, mere rearrangement of the third line to connect to a particular end of the first or second lines is considered to be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art. This argument also holds true for relocating the third line to attach to the swivels.

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If the first line of the applicant's invention ripped out of the hole on the silhouette, the lines would stay connected but the vinyl bird would fall face down. The Takeda reference would act in a similar manner. The lines would all stay connected, but the face would fall face down.

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Therefore, the examiner finds the structure and function of the Takeda reference to teach the applicant's invention.

Further, the combination of references (Takeda, Kilgore, Chase and Kaleta) teach additional features that do not exceed the knowledge of one skilled in the art. Material selection, changes in size and rearrangement of parts fall within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, with regard to the above arguments, the examiner maintains the §103 rejections (see below) on the grounds that the applicant's invention would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art in light of the cited prior art.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda in view of Chase.

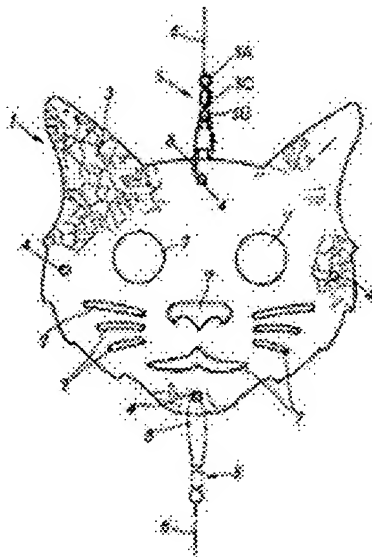
~~In regards to **claim 1**, Takeda discloses a device for scaring birds comprising a silhouette~~

(1) of a cat having at least two holes (4) therethrough, a first line (6) having one end rotatably attached to the hole (4) and a second line (6) having one end rotatably attached to the hole (4).

See Figure 1 below. A third line (10B – See Takeda -Figure 5) is rotatably attached to an end of the first line (6) and to an end of the second line (6) so as to maintain continuity between one end

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of the first and second lines (6), respectively, when the first and second lines (6) become unattached to from the holes (4). Though Takeda does not show the third line being connected to the previously mentioned “end” of the lines, it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. Takeda fails to teach a silhouette of a bird of prey as a means of scaring off other birds. However, in U.S. Patent 1,428,216, Chase teaches the use of a silhouette (5) of a bird of prey as a scarecrow. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the scaring device disclosed by Takeda to include a silhouette of a bird of prey, as shown by Chase, in an effort to provide a means of scaring off various species of birds.

**FIGURE 1**

Regarding **claim 2**, Takeda as modified, teaches a device further including a swivel (5C) connected to the holes (4). One end of the first and second lines (6) is connected to the swivel (5C) so as to permit the silhouette (1) to rotate relative to the lines (6). Takeda fails to show the

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ends of the third line directly connected to the swivels. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to relocate the third line (10B) since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. See Figure 1 above.

In regards to **claim 5**, Takeda as modified in claim 1, teaches a device wherein the third line (10B – See Takeda -Figure 5) extends across the silhouette (Chase – 5).

Regarding **claim 6**, Takeda as modified in the previous claims, discloses a silhouette (1) comprising a light reflecting film (3). Vinyl can be considered a light reflecting material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the silhouette out of vinyl panel, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

Regarding **claim 7**, Takeda, as modified, teaches a device wherein the first line (6) has another end adapted to be secured to an object above the ground and the second line (6) has another end adapted to be secured to the ground (See Takeda – Figure 4).

In regards to **claim 8**, Takeda as modified teaches a device wherein the panel freely rotates about the first and second lines (6). See Figure 1 above.

Regarding **claim 9**, Takeda as modified discloses a device wherein the panel is colored and shiny and reflects light as the panel freely rotates about the line (6). See Takeda abstract.

In regards to **claim 10**, Takeda as modified, does not specifically disclose a device adapted to be attached to the top of the building. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to increase the length of the lines (6) in order to reach to the top of the building,

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since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda in view of Chase as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Kaleta.

In regards to **claim 11**, Takeda as modified by Chase, fails to teach grommets for reinforcing the holes (4) of the silhouette (1). However, Kaleta, shows a hanging device including grommets around the holes. See Kaleta – Figure 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device by Takeda, as modified, to include grommets around the holes, as shown by Kaleta, in order to provide reinforcement so that the line does not rip through the holes in the vinyl panel.

Regarding **claim 12**, Takeda, as modified in the previous claim, teaches a device including a first swivel (5) connected to the first grommet where the first line (6) has one end connected to the first swivel (5). A second swivel (5) is connected to the second grommet where the second line (6) has an end connected to the second swivel (5). Takeda, as modified, fails to show a third line connected to the first and second swivels. The third line (10B) disclosed by Takeda is connected to the lines (6) above and below the swivels. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to relocate the third line, since it has been held that rearranging part of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

Claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda in view of Chase and Kilgore and further in view of Kaleta.

In regards to **claim 13**, Takeda as modified by Chase, Kilgore and Kaleta, as explained in the arguments for claims 1-12 above, discloses a device comprising a vinyl sheet profiling a bird of prey having two holes (4) therethrough. A first and second grommet for reinforcing the first and second holes (4) is included, as well as a first swivel (5) connected to the first grommet and a second swivel (5) connected to the second grommet. The device also has a first line (6) having an end connected to the first swivel (5) for rotatable movement and a second line (6) having an end connected to the second swivel (5). A safety line (10B) extending across the silhouette having one end connected to the first swivel (5) and another end connected to the second swivel (5).

In regards to **claim 14**, Takeda as modified above, teaches a device with the second line attached to the ground (See Takeda - Figure 4) but does not specifically disclose a device adapted to be attached to the top of the building. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to increase the length of the first line (6) in order to reach to the top of the building, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding **claim 15**, Takeda as modified in the previous claims, discloses a silhouette comprising a light reflecting film (3) that rotates about the first and second lines (6) so as to scare birds. Black, shiny vinyl can be considered a light reflecting material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the silhouette out of vinyl panel, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in



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the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

In regards to **claims 16 and 17**, Takeda as modified above, teaches a bird scaring device that can be adapted to attach to a kite or in between two upright posts. It is an obvious matter of design choice to vary the lengths of the lines (6) in order to attach the device to various structures, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

In regards to **claim 18**, Takeda as modified by Chase, Kilgore and Kaleta in the arguments above, discloses a method of scaring birds that comprises the steps of securing the silhouette (1) of a bird of prey in position by connecting a first swivel (5) to a first hole (4) in the silhouette. Then the first end of the first line (6) is connected to the first swivel (5). A second swivel (5) is connected to a second hole (4) in the silhouette (1) and the first end of the second line (6) is connected to the second swivel (5). Then the silhouette (1) is reinforced by connecting one end of a safety line (10B) across the silhouette (1) to the first swivel (5) and the other end of the safety line (10B) to the second swivel (5). The silhouette (1) is then moved by the wind to so as to scare birds.

In regards to **claim 19**, Takeda as modified above, teaches a method of scaring birds wherein the second line is attached to the ground (See Takeda - Figure 4) but does not specifically disclose a the first line adapted to be attached to the top of the building. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to increase the length of the first line (6) in order to reach to the top of the building, since such a modification would have involved a mere

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change in size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

In regards to **claim 20**, Takeda as modified above, teaches a method of scaring birds wherein the device can be adapted to attach to a kite and another object so as to scare birds away from a field. It is an obvious matter of design choice to vary the lengths of the lines (6) in order to attach the silhouette to various structures, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding **claim 21**, Takeda as modified above, teaches a method as claimed in claim 18 including the step of maintaining the continuity between the first end of the first line (6) and the first end of the second line (6) when the first and second swivels (5) become disconnected from the holes (4).

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

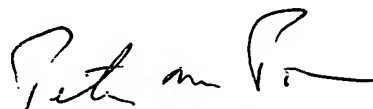
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan L Piascik whose telephone number is (703)305-0299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) First Friday Off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (703)308-2574. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-7687 for regular communications and (703)305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-7687.

slp  
August 23, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter M. Poon", written in a cursive style.

PETER M. POON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600